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PATENT

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-3, 9, 11, 14, 15 and 20 as follows:

1. (Amended) A polynucleotide comprising a first promoter from a gene encoding a CD80 (B7-1) or a CD86 (B7-2) co-stimulatory molecule and a first sequence encoding at least one antigen wherein said first sequence is operably linked to said first promoter.

B¹
2. (Amended) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein the promoter is from a CD80 (B7-1) gene.

3. (Amended) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein the promoter is from a CD86 (B7-2) gene.

B²
9. (Amended) A core carrier coated with the polynucleotide according to claim 1.

B³
11. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

B⁴
14. (Amended) A method for eliciting an immune response in a vertebrate subject, said method comprising:

β⁴
(a) providing a nucleotide sequence encoding an antigen operably linked to a promoter from a gene encoding a CD80 (B7-1) or a CD86 (B7-2) co-stimulatory molecule, said promoter capable of directing the expression of said antigen in the subject; and

(b) administering the nucleotide sequence to the subject, whereby the antigen is expressed in an amount sufficient to elicit an immune response.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the co-stimulatory molecule is CD80.

20. (Amended) A method for eliciting an immune response in a vertebrate subject, said method comprising:

β⁵
(a) providing a core carrier particle coated with a nucleotide sequence encoding at least one antigen, said nucleotide sequence operably linked to a promoter from a gene encoding a CD80 (B7-1) or a CD86 (B7-2) co-stimulatory factor, wherein said promoter is capable of driving expression of the antigen-encoding sequence in the subject; and

(b) administering the coated particle to the subject using a particle-mediated transdermal delivery technique, whereby the antigen is expressed in an amount sufficient to elicit an immune response.

In the Figures: ✓

Figures 1-7 have been replaced with new Figures 1-7 attached hereto.